

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. In Bucharest, local Food Trusts control and supervise the complete sale and distribution of food. Restaurants, confectionary stores, wine stores, refreshment centers, pastry shops, etc., in a district are all under their control. Over all is the Public Food Ministry.
2. The leader of a local Trust is generally a member of the working class. In the Tudor Vladimirescu District, for example, the Manager is a waiter. The title of "Assistant Manager" no longer exists. The Adjunct Manager supervises administrative and organizational problems. Often he may be a man of a different profession, and have little or no qualification for his job. The Chief of the Cadre Department is generally a worker and Party member who assists the Manager and Adjunct Manager. Responsibility for action devolves upon lesser employees who have the necessary training to do what is necessary. The Cadre Department has under it administrative, personnel, legal and labor protection sections. In a Public Food Trust the busiest of these is the legal section which handles prosecution of all those who break the law. If an employee is unable to account for any article worth over three times his salary (sic), the law requires that the Economic Police be notified. The individual will be arrested and tried before a Popular Court.
3. The Administrative Department is headed by a chief bookkeeper assisted by 15 to 20 others. The most important section of this Department is the Materials section. Each Trust has 3 to 4 financial inspectors who inspect and make reports. There are also sections for Labor and Salary, Projects, Norms, etc. Each section has inspectors who supervise the activities of restaurants.
4. Government Restaurants are of three categories, with differing prices in each. Luxury restaurants are very expensive. Second and third class restaurants are frequented by the bulk of the population. Only those with large salaries can afford to patronize the luxury restaurants, such as the Athenee Palace, Restaurantul Bucuresti, and Parcul Trandafirilor

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in Bucharest. Other first class restaurants are the Pescarus, Bordei, Aro, Capsa, Compescari, Pescarul and Vanatorul. Not more than 80 Government restaurants and refreshment centers are found in each district.

5. Government restaurants and refreshment centers are supplied from stores of the Trusts. Supply is always unsatisfactory, except in the summer of 1954, when, for the first time, it was a little improved, particularly in Constanta where Papacostea, former owner of the Melody Bar, the Aro, Palace, etc., in Stalin (Brasov) and Bucharest, was brought by order of Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej. Elsewhere, meals are seldom good. Meat is lacking. Drinks are not iced. A similar situation prevails with confectionaries and pastry shops. Since the "Festival" things have improved somewhat, but prices are still high. A cake, for example costs 1.55 to 2.92 lei.
6. In March-May 1954 a small private commerce sprang up. At private restaurants everything is different - better quality food, cleaner, etc. Every evening these two - three restaurants are full. Prices are high. One such restaurant is located at Cotroceni "Berea Brothers". A second is located on Vlaicu Voda Street.
7. Prices of food at Government restaurants are as follows:

Pork and beans	lei	6-9
Eggplant meal		5-9
Fish		7-15
A sort of hamburgers		4.50-8
Piece of bread		.28
Steak		3.50-8.50
Chicken		8.50-16
Wine, quart		6.92 sometimes
		12.50 sometimes
		20.50 often
		28.00 often
Wine, quart (at private restaurants)		32
Soda		1.50
Champagne		40

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